

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:

Jim Menard, Area Management Biologist
Hilary Upicksoun, Salmon Catch Monitor
Phone: (907) 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome Area Office
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Nome, Alaska 99762
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**2013 Kotzebue News Release #9
KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENING**

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 4 hours from 8 p.m. until midnight Friday, July 19 in the Kotzebue District.

Catch during Thursday night's 8-hour opening was 10,476 chum salmon by 29 permit holders. The catch after seven fishing periods was just over 20,000 chum salmon and with last night's opening the cumulative catch is now over 30,000 chum salmon.

The buyer would like fishermen to make several deliveries to the plant during the fishing period to avoid crushing fish in the bottom of the boat. Fishermen are reminded the buyer does not have to purchase your fish if they are in poor shape. If the buyer refuses a fisherman's catch the fisherman is required to make use of the salmon for subsistence purposes. Fishermen will be cited for waste of salmon if any salmon are dumped.

The commercial harvest this season is expected to be within the range of 225,000 to 250,000 chum salmon if market conditions can accept that level of harvest.

If you have any questions concerning the fishery you can call the Kotzebue office at 442-3420, or the Commercial Fisheries office in Nome at 1-800-560-2271 or the buyer at 442-4192.